

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — Homosexual activists planning acts of civil disobedience during the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) June 13-14 annual meeting the the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando will receive gifts of water compliments of the SBC's North American Mission Board (NAMB).

Shortly thereafter, the homosexual protesters will be placed under arrest and taken to jail for protesting without a permit, a spokesman for the Orange County Sheriff's Dept. told the Orlando Sentinel newspaper on June 1.

"We intend to give them time to make a brief statement, inform them the assembly is unlawful, and effect the arrest," Capt. David Black told the newspaper.

Martin King, a spokesman for NAMB, told Baptist Press the protesters would be given bottled water by NAMB staff members working with the Greater Orlando Baptist Association.

"These trained volunteers are called a 'kindness force' and they will share a bottle of cold water and the love of Christ with any pickets or demonstrators they encounter during the convention," King said.

Soulforce, a national network of homosexual activists, announced May 25 its intention to stage a national protest

against the SBC during the Orlando convention. The group's Internet site encourages homosexuals to make preparations to be arrested dur-

Alexander-Manley said. "We are part of the central Florida community."

Activists and local law enforcement met May 31 to dis-

come to swarm the platform or interrupt or disrupt, or cause anger or fear or consternation," White told the newspaper. "We're here to win minds and hearts. It's so easy to want to give up on the Southern Baptists."

Meanwhile, a group of former homosexuals announced plans June 1 to stage a counterdemonstration to the Soulforce action.

Tim Wilkins, director of Cross Ministry, said his organization would be in Orlando to peacefully demonstrate. "We are going to be down there in force," Wilkins said.

Cross Ministry, based in Raleigh, N.C., is a member of Exodus International North America. The ministry's mission is to equip churches to evangelize and disciple homosexuals and lesbians. "It is a speaking, teaching, and writing ministry to give visibility to the reality of change from the homosexual lifestyle through Jesus Christ," Wilkins said.

Wilkins said the counter-demonstration will show support for the SBC's position on homosexuality. "We want to encourage the Southern Baptist Convention regarding their stand on homosexuality... especially because of the heat that it has generated," Wilkins said.

Wilkins also said his group would introduce men and women who have been delivered from homosexual lifestyles.



Orange County Convention Center, Orlando

ing a planned civil disobedience at the convention center on Wednesday, June 14.

Chris Alexander-Manley, a homosexual activist based in Orlando, told the Orlando Sentinel that homosexuals want to respond to a proposed revision in the SBC's Baptist Faith and Message confessional statement that the Bible teaches homosexuality is a sin.

"Orlando is ready for something like this, the gay community as well as the straight,"

cuss the planned civil disobedience. Black said demonstrators would be transported to jail where they are expected to plead guilty or no contest and post a cash bond.

"They reassured us they were going to be civil in their civil disobedience," Black said. "They are going to make a statement and await arrest."

Mel White, a founder of Soulforce, said the organization would not attempt to enter the convention hall. "We have not

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

IMB breaks ground

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Sunday School lessons

SBC CP continues rise

MISSISSIPPI — Cooperative Program (CP) receipts for May 2000 were \$12,257,420, above that month a year ago by \$1,000,446 or 7.60%, according to Morris E. Henson, president and chief executive officer of the Southern Baptist Convention's SBC Cooperative Program.

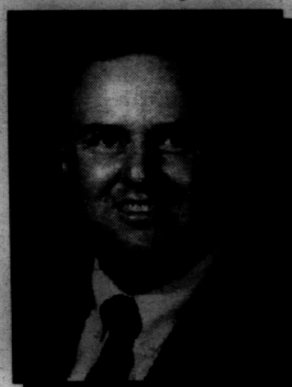
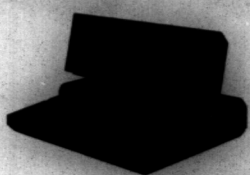
For the first five months of the fiscal year, CP receipts totaled \$118,479,606 compared to \$112,779,557 a year ago, an increase of \$5,700,049 or 5.05%. May CP gifts totaled \$14,179,998 compared to 1999 of \$13,780,657, an increase of \$399,341 or 2.90%.

For the SBC Cooperative Program, the year-to-date receipts totaled \$118,479,606 compared to the year-to-date need of \$106,389,162, an increase of \$12,090,444 or 11.37%. For May, the monthly budget need of \$13,200,000 was met by \$1,000,446 or 7.60%.

In designated gifts, the year to date total of \$12,743,711 compared to the same period a year ago of \$12,315,807, an increase of \$2,427,823 or 1.95%. For May, designated receipts of \$14,179,998 compared to the same month a year ago of \$18,570,071, a decrease of \$4,390,073 or 23.66%.

The SBC Cooperative Program total includes receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions, and fellowships for distribution according to the 1999-2000 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget.

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More time needed to act on BF&M revision

In less than a week from today, messengers to the 2000 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando will have the monumental responsibility of voting on the proposed revision to the Baptist Faith and Message (BF&M).

The responsibility is monumental because the BF&M is the foundational statement of what we believe as Southern Baptists. The framers of the two previous versions (1925 and 1963), as well as the committee that proposed this latest revision, have attempted to make clear in the document that Baptists are a non-creedal people and the BF&M is meant to carry on that tradition.

That is an important concept, because it means that no one has to swear allegiance to the BF&M or any other code to be baptized into the fellowship of believers known as Southern Baptists — the largest Protestant denomination in the world.

It really is a shame that so few Southern Baptists are familiar with the BF&M, an elegant and easily-understood description of who Southern Baptists are and what we believe. The BF&M is important because it defines the denomination both for its members and for the outside world.

We should therefore approach any revision to the BF&M with the prayer, soberness and the clarity of thought that such an important milestone deserves. That's why staff of The Baptist Record felt it was important to devote a large amount of precious space over the previous two issues to two verbatim reproductions of the proposed revision, as well as a comparison to the last revision in 1963.

Reaction to the proposed revision has not been unanimously positive. The most troubling aspects of the revision for many people are the deletions of the concepts of soul competency (each individual is able to respond to God) freedom in religion (each individual can choose how to worship God), and priesthood of the believer (each individual believer can reach out to God on his own).

Revision committee chairman Adrian Rogers explained in a subsequent statement that the committee felt those concepts are included elsewhere in the document. To delete those cherished Baptist traditions from their place of prominence in the BF&M, however, would risk losing them to future generations of Southern Baptists.

In addition, the proposed revision repeats language from the 1925 and 1963 revisions that confessions such as the BF&M are not complete and infallible statements of faith and "are only guides to interpretation, having no authority over the conscience" — but the 2000 proposed revision adds that such confessions are indeed "instruments of doctrinal accountability."

The concern has been raised that such language could lead to using the BF&M as a "litmus test" for missionary and chaplaincy appointments, seminary professorships, denominational employment, and relationships with independently-governed Baptist groups such as the state conventions that voluntarily affiliate with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Lastly, the manner in which the revision committee went about its work should raise a few eyebrows. Meeting several times over the past year with no public notice; the committee released the proposed revision in mid-May, roughly four weeks before the vote in Orlando, so Southern Baptists could, in the words of chairman Rogers, "familiarize themselves" with the recommendations before the Orlando vote.

With all due respect, four weeks is a mighty short time to allow for study and debate of this important document.

For example, when the 1963 BF&M revision was proposed, that revision committee took a year to travel around the Southern Baptist Convention and garner input from prominent Baptist leaders and people in the pews alike. Not so with this revision.

"MINISTERIALLY
SPEAKING?"



It could well be that the proposed revision expressly captures the essence of the Southern Baptist faith at the dawn of a new century. One thing is certain, however. Well-meaning people have legitimate questions, and they deserve to be heard. Likewise, the revision committee deserves a chance to explain their reasoning.

All of this cannot be done in a period of four short weeks. Perhaps we would do well to take a cue from that committee of yesteryear and set aside a year to really delve into the BF&M, get more input, and make sure we go about this revision in the right way.

It won't harm the overarching mission of this convention (Matt. 28:18-20) to table this proposal for one year and revisit it at the 2001 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans.

In the proud democratic tradition of our denomination, allowing the people the time and the forum to get involved have never been bad ideas.

GUEST OPINION

Life as a son — or a pig?

By David Gore, member
Cross Roads Church, Mantee

The 15th chapter of Luke, vv. 11-24, is the parable Christ gave to the sinners, scribes, publicans, and pharisees after he had given them the Parable of the Lost Sheep and the Parable of the Lost Coin.

I would like to look at a few things about this parable.

First of all, the person involved was a son. He belonged to his father.

Secondly, the son saw greener pastures and decided to drift away from his father's care and his house.

Thirdly, he would wind up in the pig pen, which for a Jew, was as low as you could sink.

Finally, he realized he was still a son and returned to his father's house. He was received by his father with rejoicing.

I must be quite frank to say that I believe many of us Christians today are missing the call of God's plan.

As children of his, we allow ourselves to be entangled with things of this world and we are very miserable in doing this.

One day, we too may wind

up in the pig pen.

I must say sadly that a large part of my life as a Christian has not been spent as it should, but has been entangled with the pig pen of this world.

It is only by the grace of my Heavenly Father through his son Jesus that I am still here to write these words.

You see, we trust Christ to save us, but we don't trust him to supply the life we are to live after salvation. He certainly does provide that.

He provides power, wisdom, knowledge, strength, and all of the things needed to live for him, and as Christians we must do this. The most miserable

person alive is a Christian out of fellowship with his Savior.

So, you say, "Here I am in the pig pen." 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

When we do this, we are back in fellowship. He can now hear our prayers. We now stay in fellowship by using this verse daily, even hourly.

We are to grow or mature by feeding upon God's word. 11 Tim. 2:15, says, "Study to show thyself approved upon God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

There is no growth without God's word.

We are to be controlled by the Holy Spirit who indwells in us when we accept Christ.

We are told in God's Word that we can "quench" or "grieve" the Holy Spirit. This is sin that puts us out of fellowship, and the old sin nature then controls us.

We get back in fellowship by following 1 John 1:9.

It is a daily process of the Holy Spirit controlling us, fellowship with our Saviour, prayer, and knowing God's word.

Then the world and its pig pen are not attractive to us believers because we are focused on the person of Christ and our relationship with him. He can work his plan in, out, through, and around us.

God's plan for us as believers does not include a life in the world's pig pen.

Remember — the person in the parable in Luke was a son, not a pig.

What is it going to be for you today, Christian friend? Are you going to live like a son or a pig?

Missionaries honored for years of service

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Political upheaval. Death of spouses and relatives. Visa problems and rejections. Cultural barriers. Homes robbed and ransacked. Danger.

International missionaries regularly face challenges like these, said Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB), at a May 19 recognition service for retiring IMB missionaries.

Yet even in tragedy there is cause for celebration in missionary testimonies of lives sustained by God's faithfulness both on and off the field, Rankin said.

"God did not forsake you," Rankin told 68 emeritus missionaries in a service held at Monument Heights Church in Richmond, Va. "Surely that's the testimony of your life: The Lord has never failed you, even in time of tragedy, tough times.

"When God called you to international service, it wasn't a response to a job description. He called you to die," he said. "He sustained because you answered the calling by dying to self.

"Why has God been so faithful? So that all the nations ... might hear. May all the peoples know that God is the Lord."

Without prior knowledge of Rankin's sermon topic, the church's sanctuary choir had planned to perform the African-styled arrangement, "He Never Failed Me Yet."



SUSTAINED BY GOD — Though they faced challenges and even tragedy, God sustained these emeritus missionaries without fail, International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin said in a May 19 service at Monument Heights Church in Richmond, Va. God sustains missionaries because they answered his call by dying to self and because he wants all the nations to know that he is the Lord, Rankin said. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

Testimonies of missionaries with a cumulative total of 1,930 years of overseas service highlighted the emeritus program.

Among the retirees were H.W. (Dub) Jr. and Salle Fite, who served in Brazil for 42 of their 50 years as missionaries — the longest term of service for retiring missionaries ever honored by the board. The Fites, who went to Brazil in 1949 as agriculturists, managed school farms in Corrente to give youths education and agricultural experience.

"Our ex-students include pastors, pastors' wives, lawyers, bankers, farmers, ranchers, teachers, businessmen, government workers, mayors, and city councilmen," Fite said.

The Fites plan to return to Brazil to work in their local church and association.

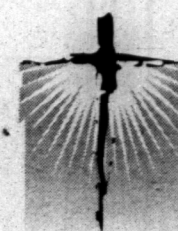
"We hope to influence others to find the 'Bread of Life,' who said, 'I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life; no one goes to the Father except by me,'" Fite said.

In an interesting twist, Clifford Henry and Peggy Jo Dane, missionaries to Belize for 22 years, were honored just two

days before Keith and Lisa Wagner were appointed as church planters in Dominican Republic in a May 21 service at First Church in Norfolk, Va.

The Danes ministered to Wagner's mother, an evangelical missionary in Ivory Coast, during a medical emergency in Recife, Brazil. The Danes' ministry to his mother helped influence Wagner and his wife to pursue their missionary calling through IMB.

During the week's activities for emeritus missionaries and new appointees, Lisa Wagner was tearfully reunited with the Danes for the first time.



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THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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Harris, Swanberg to visit SBC

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — Grammy-winning musical artist Larnelle Harris and syndicated talk show host Dennis Swanberg will make guest appearances at the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Program (CP).

Harris and Swanberg are scheduled to appear on Tuesday, June 13, in the convention hall and will meet messengers at the Executive Committee booth in the exhibit hall during the morning hours, said John Kyle, director of Cooperative Program development.

The CP presentation during the SBC also will unveil a new three-part CP Missions video series, highlighting celebrities on mission, missionary heroes, and a special surprise segment.

Harris started his musical career at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Ky., where he earned a degree in classical music and theory. Harris spent four years with the Spurrilows and eventually started a solo career.

Since he recorded his first solo album in 1975, Harris has collected five Grammy Awards and 11 Dove Awards. He has produced more than a dozen top-rated albums.

Swanberg is the host of the weekly cable variety show called "Swans Place." The show is produced by the ACTS/FamilyNet network and televised nationwide to 27 million households on the Odyssey Channel.

Swanberg is a former pastor who uses down-home charm to entertain and encourage audiences. Swanberg takes his 20 impersonations to more than 200,000 people every year.

CP is the channel by which Southern Baptists finance missions and ministry endeavors of state Baptist conventions and the SBC's national and international outreach.



FIVE DECADES — Emeritus Southern Baptist missionaries H.W. "Dub" (right) and Salle Fite (second from right) chat with Robin Hadaway, regional leader for International Mission Board work in eastern South America, after a May 19 service honoring 68 retiring missionaries at Monument Heights Church in Richmond, Va. The Fites were recognized for 50 years of missionary service. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

Looking back

10 years ago

L. Edward (Ed) Gandy is the new director of missions for Alcorn Association, Corinth. Gandy goes to the new position from the pastorate of First Church, Kosciusko, where he has served since 1977. A native of Belzoni, Gandy is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

20 years ago

Richard Brogan, president of Mississippi Baptist Seminary, will join with the board of trustees to dedicate the seminary's new facility at 3160 Lynch Street in Jackson. The seminary is a biracial ministry of National and Mississippi Baptists. An open house follows the dedication service.

50 years ago

SBC president R. G. Lee, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, predicts Southern Baptists will easily double in the next 20 years. One reason, he says, is because, "everybody is somebody in the Baptist churches. The poor man's vote is just as good as the rich man's vote. Each church is self-governing."

IMB breaks ground for center's expansion

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — International Mission Board (IMB) trustees participated in groundbreaking ceremonies for the \$23 million expansion at the board's Missionary Learning Center (MLC) during their May 18-20 meeting, in addition to

missionary resignations can be linked directly to the training and preparation the agency provides new and returning missionaries at MLC.

The swelling ranks of new missionaries has caused shortages of housing, educational, and parking space at the Missionary Learning Center, which opened in April 1984. Studies show the number of IMB missionaries could grow above 7,000 over the next five years.

Trustees also unanimously approved an additional \$3.25 million for completion of the board's stateside office renovation at the Richmond headquarters.

The increased renovation funds for the Richmond facility were needed to provide an appropriate work environment for a rapidly growing and changing organizational structure, including an Office of Global Information Systems, which was launched since the renovation began.

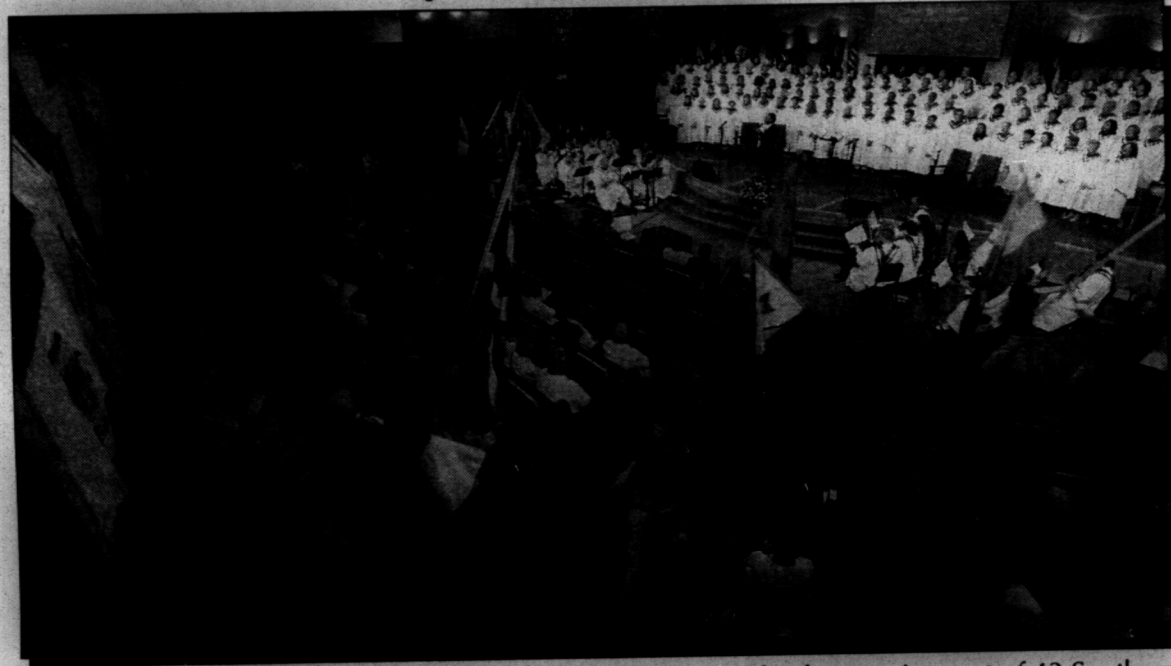
The additional \$3.25 million appropriation will come from operating reserves. It brings the total cost for the renovation to more than \$13 million.

Tim McCoy of Macon, Ga., was elected board chairman. Bob Claytor of South Carolina was elected first vice chairman; Steve McKown of Arizona was elected second vice chairman; Diane Reeder of Louisiana was named recording secretary.

In his report to the board, Rankin recounted recent Accelerating World



CALLED TO MISSIONS — During a May 21 International Mission Board missionary appointment service at First Church, Norfolk, Va., Mandy Dimperio, a former missionary journeyman to Mexico, shares how God called her to missionary service in Bolivia. (BP) photo by Roy M. Burroughs.



TO ALL THE NATIONS — A parade of flags set the tone for the appointment of 43 Southern Baptist missionaries during a May 21 service at First Church, Norfolk, Va. International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin told the new missionaries, "God is faithful and His grace is sufficient for any burden you are called upon to bear." (BP photo by Roy M. Burroughs)

electing new officers, honoring 67 retiring missionaries and appointing 43 new workers for overseas fields.

During the groundbreaking ceremony for the MLC expansion in Rockville, Va., IMB President Jerry Rankin said the fact the board has one of the lowest rates of

Evangelization meetings with national Baptist convention leaders throughout the world.

Rankin said Baptist leaders worldwide are expressing interest in creating or strengthening their own international missions efforts in order to participate more fully in presenting Jesus Christ to the world's lost.

IMB Senior Vice President Avery Willis noted the meetings are an effort to enable "the receiving groups to become the sending groups."

New missionaries prove age no barrier to service

NORFOLK, Va. (BP) — Being over 50 is not a roadblock to overseas missionary service, eight of Southern Baptists' 43 newest international missionaries testified in May 20 services at First Church in Norfolk, Va.

"In March we received word that the personnel committee would recommend us for appointment," said Jimmy Maroney, an appointee in his 50s. "I sent an e-mail to my brothers and sisters, telling them we would be moving to Prague in the Czech Republic.

"In a flash, my younger sister sent a reply, 'Don't you know how old you are?'"

Adding emphasis, the Maroneys' adult son, Eric, and his wife, Julie, stood beside Maroney and his wife, Kay, on the International Mission Board (IMB) appointment-service platform. The younger Maroneys will serve in Croatia.

It may have been the first time since the IMB was founded in 1845 that parents were appointed alongside their adult children.

The older Maroneys previously served as missionaries in Ghana, Ethiopia, and Kenya. After several years working on the IMB's stateside staff, the Maroneys now will serve in the board's Central and Eastern Europe region.

Eric Maroney graduated from Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., two years ago. For the past year and a half, he and Julie have served as International Service Corps personnel in Split, Croatia.

Another over-50 couple appointed told of the influence their two adult children — already IMB missionaries themselves — had on their own sense of calling.

"I have always had a heart for missions, partly through the influence of my father and what I learned in Royal Ambassadors and Church Training Union while growing up," said a missionary who will be reaching out to people groups with little or no access to the good news of God's love.

His wife added, "Later, after our son and oldest daughter became foreign missionaries, our son challenged us to retire early and consider foreign missions as a place of service."

Still another 50-something couple, Tom and Barb Suiter of Kingsport, Tenn., told of finding God's "perfect timing" for their lives years after first experiencing a call to international missions.

"God spoke to me through an IMB report to the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans almost 10 years ago," Tom Suiter said. "I made a commitment to serve the Lord as a foreign missionary, but we had teenage children and could not go at the time. God's timing has been perfect for us as we now know that he is calling us to go."

The Suiters will serve in Vienna, Austria.

A fourth couple in their 50s are Betty and Jessie Rushing, who will serve in the Southeast Asia and Oceania region.

"Although there have been several difficult steps in the process, such as meeting medical requirements, through it all he has affirmed his call on our lives by helping us overcome each difficulty," Jessie Rushing said in his testimony.

In his charge to the 43 new missionaries, IMB President Jerry Rankin noted the burdens missionaries face regarding their own families and their sense of calling to faraway places.

"The burden becomes especially heavy when it extends to your own family — when you feel your children are being deprived socially or endure extended periods of separation when they go to boarding school," he said, "or when your family members in the States have needs, but you can't be there to help."



A FAMILY THING — Jimmy and Kay Maroney (left microphone), two of eight over-50 missionaries appointed May 21 at First Church, Norfolk, Va., share how God called them back to the mission field. At the far right are their son, Eric, and his wife, Julie, who were being appointed as missionaries in the same service. It may have been the first time since the International Mission Board was founded in 1845 that parents were appointed alongside their adult children. (BP photo by Roy M. Burroughs)

This week President Clinton visited Ukraine. Along with all the other stops he would make in Russia, and other points, he made time to go to Ukraine. The high point of his being there was to see the final shutdown of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant. Although we were not directly affected by the impact or much of the fallout from Chernobyl, all of us watched with both horror and hurt as lives were altered in that incident and we all wondered, "Can that happen to us?"

As most of you are aware, Mississippi Baptists have a partnership with the Baptists of Ukraine. Already many Mississippians have been to that country to share a witness for Jesus, help start churches, and encourage the Christians there. While President Clinton went to Ukraine to see the ending of a nuclear power plant, Mississippians are going there to see the beginning of God's demonstration of power. For three-quarters of a century Ukraine has been without an



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

open witness. Now, the opportunity is ours and the Lord is blessing the efforts of Mississippi Baptists.

The goal of Mississippi Baptists is to start nine new churches in Ukraine where no church exists. Already the first church has been planted and is being nourished with far greater success than had been anticipated. Even as I write, the second start is in the process of being birthed. As you think about it, it is far more exciting to see the birth and empowerment of a people of God than it is to see a power plant undone.

Over the years of our partnership, thousands of Mississippians will have the privilege of being the Lord's

missionary and going to Ukraine with a heart full of love. I recognize that not everyone can go, but everyone can be involved. I would ask you to do the following things, if you possibly can:

- **Pray.** Pray fervently. Pray personally for those people who you know that are going. Pray specifically for those people who will be reached. Pray that the Lord will come and nurture, bless, and strengthen those new believers.

- **Assist.** Because of time, health, or resources, you may not be able to go and be on missions in Ukraine; however, you may be able to help someone else who is going. It is clear from the New Testament, and

especially from Paul's writings in Philippians, that his mission endeavors would never have been possible had it not been for those who assisted him. As the Lord guides you, enter into helping someone else.

- **Go.** If and when, as God opens the doors and prompts your heart, move forward, make plans, and be a part of the great opportunity God has given us in this day and time. A decade ago it looked impossible that anyone could go to a place like Ukraine to tell of Jesus' grace and love. Now, we can go and if it is possible for you to participate, please do so.

I am glad the President visited Ukraine, for it calls attention to that area of the world. I am thrilled that Mississippi Baptists for it focuses our attention on an area about which God cares.

"For God so loved the world," includes Mississippi, Honduras and Maryland/Delaware, (our two other Mississippi Baptist partnerships), Ukraine, and every other point on the globe.

God bless you as you join hands with him in his great mission work.

Church dedicates book to the hurting, lost

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — With the prayer that hurting Christians will find comfort and non-Christians will be saved, Wedgwood Church dedicated "Night of Tragedy, Dawning of Light," a book about the Sept. 15 shootings at the Fort Worth, Texas, church.

"It is our prayer that lonely, hurting Christians can realize that God can come into the midst of your darkest tragedy and minister peace and light to your life and make out of the broken places the strongest place of your life," said Wedgwood pastor Al Meredith during a May 28 dedication service at Wedgwood.

Meredith, who wrote the foreword to the book, noted a chapter in the book for non-Christians on "how to get to heaven from Wedgwood."

The book was written in memory of the seven people killed by gunman Larry Ashbrook and in honor of the seven who were wounded.

In her prayer of dedication in Wedgwood's second worship service, Kathy Jo Brown, widow of shooting victim Shawn Brown, asked that the book would encourage Christians to continue evangelizing the world.

"Lord, I pray ... that all the people who have come to know you and all that will come to know is just a result of you turning something so bad into something for your glory," Brown said.

David Griffin, father of shooting victim Cassie Griffin, gave the prayer of dedication in the first service.

All royalties from the book will be donated to the Southern Baptist International Mission Board for Wedgwood Church members who minister to unreached people groups in World A.

The book was written by church member Dan Crawford, Southwestern Seminary professor of evangelism and spiritual formations. In October, Wedgwood Church commissioned Crawford to write the book.

"Thanks to you for your confidence in me expressed in that vote and thanks to the

families of the victims [who] were my first editorial board," Crawford told the church.

After completing a draft of the book, Crawford said he asked each of the victims' families to read the draft before he sent it to the publisher.

"There are many accounts of what happened that night and the aftermath of that night and you may well read something and say that's not the way it was," Crawford said to the congregation.

"Well, there were a lot of versions and we tried our best to put a timeline to it and to give it a consensus of what actually happened during those moments that Wednesday evening."

Kevin Galey, who was wounded in the shooting, and Chip Gillette, a church member and one of the first police officers on the scene, are listed as coauthors.

Church members and others who attended the dedication service were given an opportunity to purchase copies of the book for \$5.

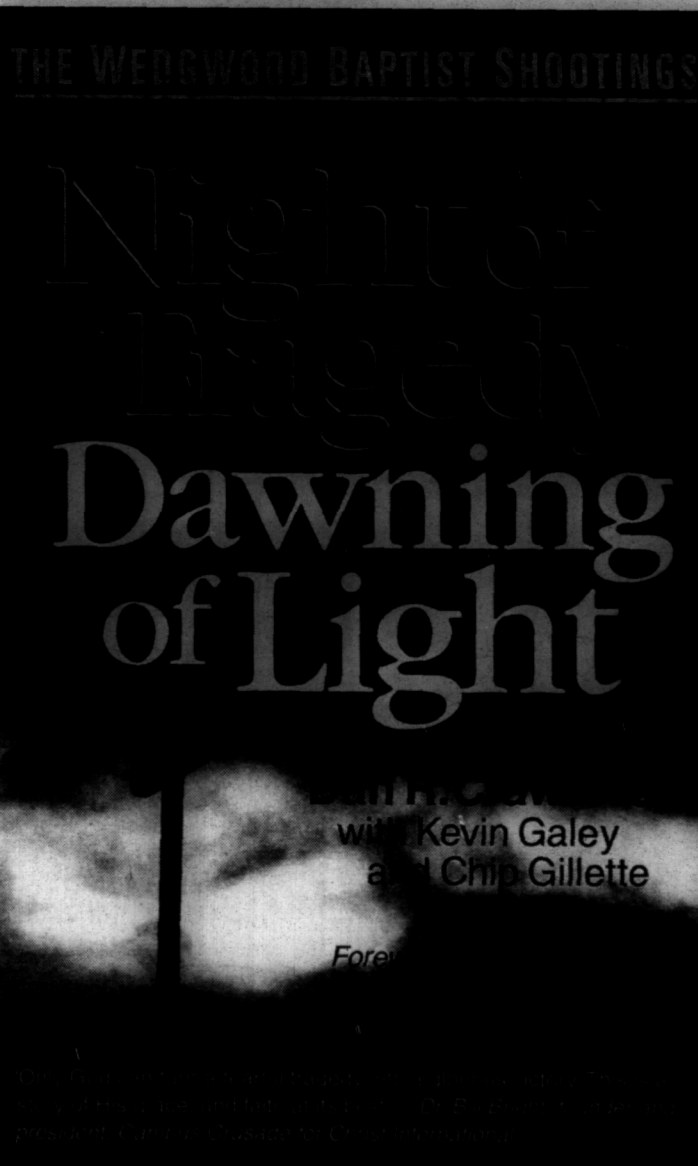
The publisher, Shaw Books, a division of Random House, made 5,000 copies of the book available to the church at the discounted price. The book went on sale to the public May 29 for \$14.99.

The dedication service also included performance of "Only Heaven Knows," a song about the shooting written by Fort Worth music evangelists David and Julianna Barnett. Julianna is a teacher at Bethesda Christian School where Kristi Beckel, one of the teenagers killed in the shooting, attended.

David Barnett said that the music for the song was written the morning after the shooting during an extended chapel at the school. The lyrics were written later that day.

The song is available on a CD that also includes the sheet music for the song, an accompaniment track, 200 photos of banners and well wishes posted on the walls at Wedgwood after the shooting, poetry written about the shooting, and a video of "See You At The Pole," rallies that was supposed to have been shown at Wedgwood Sept. 15.

To purchase the CD, contact the Barnetts at barnettd@flash.net or P.O. Box, 820304, Fort Worth, Texas, 76182.



Softball tourney sign-up now open

The Mississippi Baptist State Softball Tournament is now accepting team registrations for the 2000 competition to be held over three weekends in July and August at the City Fields in Jackson.

Tom Prather, consultant in the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), said the tournament is divided into:

- Class A, for churches with up to 300 people enrolled in Sunday School, to be held July 21-22.

- Class AA, for churches with 301-700 people enrolled in Sunday School, to be held July 28-29.

- Class AAA, for churches with 701 members or more, to be held August 11-12.

Tournament classes are organized according to Sunday School enrollment, not Sunday School attendance, Prather pointed out, and all players must be church members.

Entry fee is \$115 per team, and all teams must be from churches affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Special rules apply to churches that wish to join together to field one team, he added.

For more information or to request a registration form, contact Prather at MBCB Men's Ministry Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3337 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 337. E-mail: tprather@mbcb.org.

Retton to join NAMB presentation at SBC



Retton

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — A live appearance by former gymnast Mary Lou Retton will be among the highlights of the North American Mission Board's (NAMB) presentation to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Wednesday evening, June 14.

The 1984 Olympic champion — a member of Second Church of Houston — has appeared in a popular television spot referring to Jesus Christ as "the perfect '10.'" She also is the star of a new program on NAMB's FamilyNet Network, "Mary Lou's Flip-Flop Shop."

Retton's TV show involves preschool children in creative movement and exercise while reinforcing positive biblical values. While the program is also being syndicated, the version aired on FamilyNet will also include an explicitly biblical emphasis.

Her appearance will be part of a segment on "air support" in an adventure-themed presentation highlighting spiritual "rescue squads," said Nate Adams, NAMB's vice president for media and mobilization. "The image is of mountain climbing and rappelling, and the concept is that people of North America are climbing a lot of mountains seeking fulfillment and gratification," he said.

The NAMB presentation will be part of

the convention's closing session exploring "God's Harvest in America," presented in cooperation with the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

REVIVAL DATES

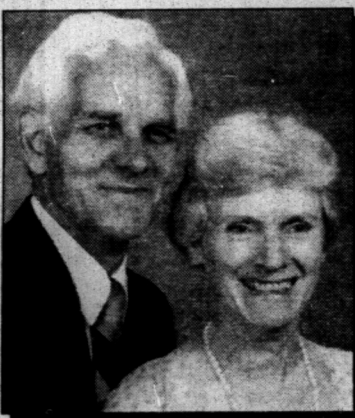
New Zion, Walnut Grove: June 12-15; 7 p.m. nightly; Herschel Bragg of Ellisville, speaker; Greg Renfrow, pastor.

Gatesville, Crystal Springs: June 14-18; Michael Patrick, South Dakota, who grew up in Gatesville Church, evangelist; Sandy Sartor, Florence, music; Wed.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Sat., gospel concert by Sandy Sartor, 7 p.m.; Sunday, homecoming, 11 a.m. followed by fellowship meal.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

A scholarship established by a former Mississippi College (MC) business professor and her parents will make it possible for an MC student majoring in business to receive an education.

Eileen and Stanley Peckham of Hattiesburg have established a scholarship in memory of their daughter, Lois Ann Peckham, who died at age 52 on July 15, 1999. The Peckhams, both of whom are MC graduates, donated \$10,000 in December 1999, to initially fund the scholarship. The scholarship has since grown to \$69,000 with funds from Lois Ann Peckham's estate. Lois Ann Peckham received a business administration degree from MC in 1968 and a master's of business degree from the University of Alabama. She taught for nine years in the MC School of Business and also served part of that time as director of admissions at MC.



The Peckhams

Mississippi College department of art announces the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Preview Exhibition in the Samuel Marshall Gore Art Gallery, Aven Hall, May 24-June 30. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Mon.-Fri. A reception will be held in honor of the MFA Preview Exhibition participants on June 11, 2-4 p.m. For further information, call (601) 925-3231.

William Carey College public relations assistant, Jeanna Graves of Petal, was elected president of the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi at their annual conference held on the Gulf Coast recently.



L. Peckham

William Carey College will open its 26th season with the John Kander and Fred Ebb musical revue "Two By Five." The production will run June 15-July 1 on the William Carey College Hattiesburg campus. Dinner is served nightly at 7 p.m. in the O.L. Quave Theatre, with the performance following. There are no shows Sundays and Mondays. Seats

Carey Dinner Theatre will open its 26th season with the John Kander and Fred Ebb musical revue "Two By Five." The production will run June 15-July 1 on the William Carey College Hattiesburg campus. Dinner is served nightly at 7 p.m. in the O.L. Quave Theatre, with the performance following. There are no shows Sundays and Mondays. Seats

may be reserved by calling price of \$17.50 includes dinner and show. (601) 582-6221. The admission



William Carey College (WCC) student Joseph Brack, a junior theatre major from Whitman, Mass., has won the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival's national Barbizon Award in Costume Design. His designs were for WCC's production of Crow and Weasel.

Staff changes

Alex Craft began serving May 28 as music director at Clarke Venable Memorial Church, Decatur. He previously served at First Church, Eupora. Craft received his education at Pearl River Community College, University of Southern Mississippi, and New Orleans Seminary.



Craft

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3000 Schuster Lane, P.O. Box 357
Merrill, WI 54452



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

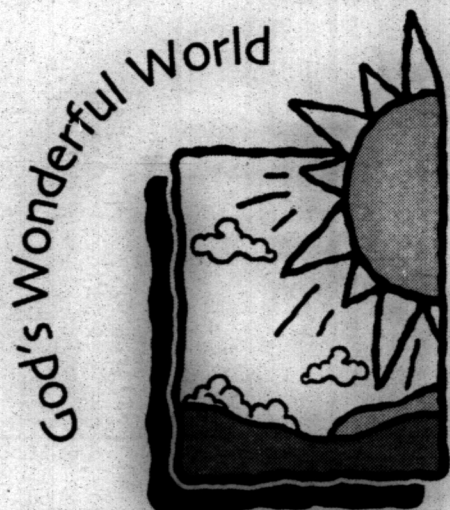
Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 8, 2000

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Office of Communication**.

YOUNG MUSICIANS' CAMPS 2000

For those who have completed grades 4-6 by June



Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, June 23-27
Cost: \$132.50
Register through Gulfshore: (228) 452-7261

Guest Director:
Wayne Causey
Minister of Music
Forest Hills Baptist Church
Nashville, Tenn.



Blue Mountain College, July 24-28

Cost: \$100

Register through Church Music Dept., MBCB.



Guest Director:
Nan Grantham
Preparatory Choir Director
Houston Children's Chorus
Houston, Texas

God is pouring out blessings at these camps. Music touches the soul like no other medium, and children are very receptive to God through music. Be a part of a Young Musicians' camp in 2000. Registration opens March 1. Come, expecting a blessing. For more information, call the Church Music Department, MBCB, at 1-800-748-1651.

Learn about

God's Wonderful World
featuring

Worship services

Music and spiritual emphasis
classes

Choir rehearsals

Crafts

Faculty features

Swimming

Concert of camp music on
last evening



The Music and Fine Arts Celebration for Youth

June 27-July 1, 2000

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly,
Pass Christian

Older youth, grades 7 - 12, will learn songs and drama parts from *Because We Believe* by Steven V. Taylor when they attend HeartSong this year. Barry Tweedy will be the choral director. Other opportunities will include a choice of classes such as:

- Banner Making
- Puppets
- Handbells
- Voice
- Guitar
- Signing
- Drama
- Instrumental
- Keyboards: Piano or Organ
- Part-singing

For more information, contact
the Church Music Department, MBCB,
at 1-800-748-1651.

2000 WMU TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Monday, July 31
Camp Garaywa, Clinton
2:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
OR
6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

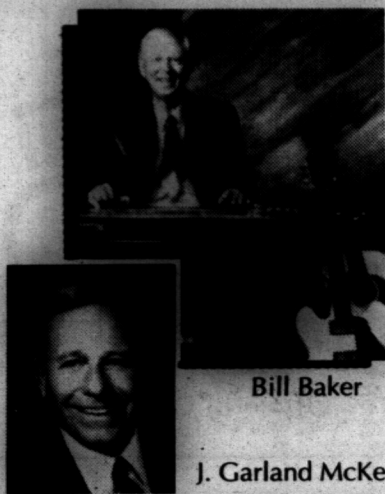
Tuesday, August 1
Main Street Baptist Church,
Hattiesburg
7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 3
First Baptist Church, Newton
7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S JOB CORPS

Site Coordinator Training
July 20-22
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

For registration information, contact Tammy Anderson, WMU Department, MBCB, at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 292-3323.



2000 Regional Senior Adult Rallies

(8:30-11:30 A.M.)
Cost-- \$1.00

Dream Team	August 28 FBC, Sardis	August 29 FBC, Madison	August 31 FBC, Laurel
Choir/Group	"Joymakers" FBC, Clinton	"Rugger-Roos" Hillbilly Band Raymond	"Reflections" FBC, Jackson
Piano	June McKee	June McKee	Irene Martin
Speaker	J. Garland McKee Clinton	J. Garland McKee Clinton	Bill Baker Clinton
Conferences:	J. Garland McKee John McCall Clinton LifeWay	J. Garland McKee John McCall Clinton LifeWay	Bill Baker Ken H. Hopkins Hattiesburg Horace Kerr Brandon

Family Week at Gulfshore

July 3-7

"Families Finding Faith"

Conferences:

- **TeamKids** (preschool and children)
- **Mini-Centrifuge** - Harvey Ellis, MBCB
Ronney Joe Webb, Laurel
- **Couples** - led by Dr. and Mrs. Chuck Kelley,
president of New Orleans Baptist Seminary
- **Single-Parenting** - led by James Haynes, Biloxi
- **Power of Faith** - led by Bill Causey, Clinton



John Yates, Clinton

Cost Per Person - Room/Meals/Reservation:

"A" Unit

Adult (12 years and up)	\$160.60 each
Child (2 - 11 years old)	80.05 each
Under 2 years old	4.00 each

"C" Unit

Adult (18 years and up)	\$146.00 each
Youth (12 years - 12 grade)	78.50 each
Child (2 - 11 years old)	45.25 each
Under 2 years old	4.00 each

Register after March 1st - Deposit: \$40 per person or \$80 per family. Call 1-228-452-7261 to make reservations.
Contact Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, MBCB, for more info: 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

International Family Picnic

Saturday, June 10

10 a.m. - 2 p.m

Atkins Village, Starkville



- Soccer Clinic led by Brilla, Clinton
 - "Puppet Works," Valdia, La.
 - Chicken Dogs and drinks
 - games, singing and special events
- For more information, contact BSU 1-662-323-5761



(Sponsored by Miss. State University-BSU, Golden Triangle Association,
and Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, MBCB)

Toward a Growing Marriage



September 22-23

FBC, Gulfport

featuring

Gary Chapman,
author of

Five Love Languages

Call 228-863-8501 for more information.

MISSIONARY KIDS RE-ENTRY RETREAT

WHAT: A four-day retreat for missionary kids. This retreat is designed to enable MKs to make a smooth transition from the mission field to the college campus. This is the first time Miss. WMU has hosted this national event.

WHEN: August 10-13, 2000

WHERE: Camp Garaywa, Clinton

We Need You!!!

Here are just a few ways that WMU groups can participate in the MK Re-Entry Retreat:

- Adopt a Missionary Kid
- Provide School Supplies
- Provide Gift Items
- Provide Snacks

For more information please contact Tammy Anderson in the state WMU office at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, 292-3323.



ITINERARY

Wednesday, June 14 - 6:00 p.m.
Moselle Memorial Baptist Church,
Moselle, Miss.

Thursday, June 15 - 7:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church,
Ocean Springs, Miss.

Friday, June 16 - 7:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church,
Brookhaven, Miss.

Saturday, June 17
Ministry Day,
Jackson, Miss.

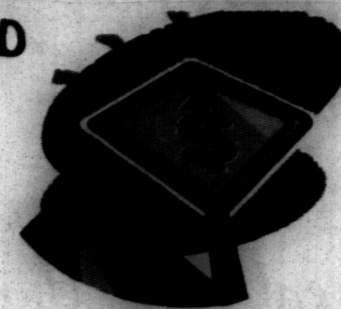
Sunday, June 18 - 10:45 a.m.
First Baptist Church,
Horn Lake, Miss.

Sunday, June 18 - 6:00 p.m.
North Oxford Baptist Church,
Oxford, Miss.

Monday, June 19 - 7:00 p.m.
Calvary Baptist Church,
Tupelo, Miss.

Tuesday, June 20 - 7:00 p.m.
Ridgecrest Baptist Church,
Madison, Miss.

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WE WILL PROVIDE...

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- ◆ Travel and lodging
- ◆ Order form for books

CHURCH RESPONSIBILITIES..

- ◆ Promote
- ◆ Order books
- ◆ Provide honorarium

SCHEDULE

- ◆ One-day Sunday event
- ◆ Sunday School hour
- ◆ Morning worship
- ◆ Discipleship hour
- ◆ Evening worship

BENEFITS

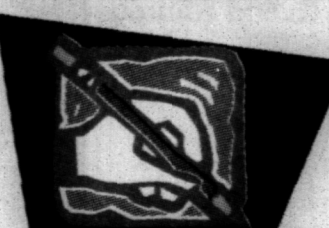
- ◆ A biblically-based philosophy of money
- ◆ The 10-70-20 Plan for financial freedom
- ◆ A way to get out of debt, **beginning today**
- ◆ Deep appreciation from your members

If interested, please call Jerry Mixon, Stewardship Director, MBCB
toll-free at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 292-3347.



Professional Certification for Ministry Assistants and Ministry Office SkillShops

August 15-17, 2000
Camp Garaywa, Clinton



**Professional
Certification**
Dianne Cockrell,
certified church secre-
tary instructor for
LifeWay Christian
Resources, and
Church Development
Team, South Carolina
Baptist Convention,
where one of her pri-
mary responsibilities is
working with ministry
assistants across
South Carolina.



**Ministry Office
SkillShops**
Jane Barrett,
certified church
secretary instructor
for LifeWay Christian
Resources, and
Church Administrator
at Mt. Hebron Baptist
Church in Elmore,
Alabama, where she
has been on staff for
18 years.



For more information, contact:

Kay McDonnell, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, MBCB,
1-800-748-1651 or 292-3305 or e-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org.

Pray this day for...

June 9 - June 22, 2000

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

FAITH - "Faith is like radar which sees through the fog - the reality of things at a distance that the human eye cannot see."
Corrie ten Boom, Tramp for the Lord

Crystal Hall is a resort mission-ary in the Norfolk Baptist Association, Virginia Beach, Va. Pray for all the groups coming this summer to help with day camps at local camp-grounds. Pray for those helping with the beach ministry.

On Father's Day many people express gratitude and apprecia-tion to their fathers. Mrs. John Bruce Dodd of Spokane, Wash., started Father's Day in 1910. Pray for all fathers today as they seek to provide for their families and to be good exam-ples for their children.

For (1) GA Summer Camp, 12th-16th; Camp Garaywa (WMU), (2) Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp, 12-16th; Central Hills Retreat (Men's Ministry), (3) All-State Youth Choir rehearsal camp & tour, 12th-20th; William Carey College (Church Music)

For (1) VI Youth Conference, 19th-23rd; Gulfshore Assembly (MBCB), (2) GA Summer Camp, 19th-23rd; Camp Garaywa (WMU), (3) Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp, 19th-23rd; Central Hills Retreat (Men's Ministry)

For (1) Southern Baptist Convention, 13th-15th, Orlando, Fla., (2) Jake Morrow, a resort and campus missionary in North Bangor, N.Y., and the ministry outreach to the Ironman Competition and the ESPN Great Outdoor Games in July.

Pray for Missionaries Travis and Kimberley Forsythe, who serve among the Djimini people of Cote D'Ivoire. They experi-enced a recent carjacking crisis and complications with Kimberley's pregnancy. Less than 1 percent of the popula-tion are evangelical Christians.

A man in Cheng-Du, China, who will be called "David" is a new leader. He shared his faith with a young man who became so excited, that he immediately told everyone he could, and seven prayed and accepted Christ! Pray for the outreach to rural areas surrounding Cheng-Du.

Pray for representatives Paul and Judy Ridgway who are involved in a music ministry in Bulgaria. They are planning concerts and seminars for the next two months. Pray that unsaved people will hear and respond to the gospel.

For (1) V Youth Conference, 15th-19th; Gulfshore Assembly (MBCB), (2) Pray for new Bible studies that are starting in the Peacevale area of Dundee, South Africa. This is an out-reach method that uses lay evangelists to start new mission points.

The Accelerated World Evangelism Conf. was held April 11-15 in Eastern Africa. Baptist leadership met with other Great Commission Christians to pray and plan how to work together. Praise the Lord for a renewed commit-ment to partnership in serving.

Following the installation of Taiwan's first opposition presi-dent (Chen Shuei-Bian) on May 20th, the political situation between China and Taiwan continues to be tense, at best. Pray for leaders on both sides of the strait, asking that peace will prevail and that the gospel will be freely proclaimed.

For (1) IV Youth Conference, Gulfshore Assembly (MBCB), (2) Please pray today for prime Minister Victor Yushchendo of Ukraine.

10

Baptist representatives Bob and Jerry Worley are making plans for an evangelistic camp to be held in Ugljan, an island in the Adriatic Sea, on July 7-14. Pray that God will raise up strong, male, spiritual leaders among the Bosnians in order that new churches be started.



Your Invitation to Involvement
2000 ON-TO-COLLEGE EMPHASIS
"Discovering New Opportunities"
Galatians 6:9-10



GET INVOLVED: ON-TO-COLLEGE DAY

What is it? On-To-College Day recognizes each student as they enter classes in the fall. It is observed on a special Sunday of your choice either in July or early August. Included are all students whether they remain in the community or leave home to attend college, and whether beginning college or a returning student. This emphasis typically includes an On-To-College worship service with an optional luncheon.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Plan a Sunday morning worship service in July or early August to recognize all students who are 'on to college' for the fall term. (See suggested worship format.)

- Recognize each student, including their name, address, phone number and choice of college in the order of worship and church newsletter.
- Recognize the parents and families of students.
- Recognize all of the college ministry and college workers.
- Recognize the Baptist Student Union director, if present.
- Recognize the college ministry personnel in your church and community, including teachers and volunteers.

PRAYER COVENANT

- Ask the church to covenant to pray for each student.
- Ask the church to write a note of encouragement to each student.
- Enlist and recognize prayer partners to pray for the students as they begin school.

ON-TO-COLLEGE Day and the BSU Establishing a relationship between the student and BSU through On-To-College Day encourages the student to visit the BSU when school begins. It also connects the student to a vital spiritual fellowship on campus.

- Invite the BSU to share in On-To-College Day.
- Ask the director or a student representative to share in the program.
- Invite a BSU ensemble or drama team to share in worship.

ON-TO-COLLEGE DAY LUNCHEON

- A luncheon after church is a great time for last good-byes and sharing addresses.
- Make it casual and informal.
- Recognize those leaders that made On-To-College Day a great success.
- Draw names for prayer partners for the fall semester.

For Further Information, Contact: Collegiate Ministry, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530
1-800-748-1651 or (601)968-3800, ext. 299



Note burning at Dry Creek Church, Benton-Tippah Association

Dry Creek Church, Benton-Tippah Association, held a note burning service on March 19. The debt of approximately \$70,000 for the renovation of the

sanctuary was paid in less than five years. Pictured (from left) are Earl Barron, pastor; Duane Murley, deacon; and Harold Morgan, chairman of deacons.



Bible drillers of Harmony Church, Pontotoc

Bible drillers of **Harmony Church, Pontotoc**, are (pictured, from left) Christopher Sappington, third-year children's driller; Justin Caples, second-year children's driller; and David Cruse (center), first-year youth driller.

New Prospect Church, Olive Branch, had its MissionKids Commencement service May 21. Twenty-four children grades K-5 participated in the commencement service, which featured the children earning certificates, ribbons of merit, and Scripture Memory Award medals. During the service, the children sang "Peace Like A River" in Mandarin Chinese. The service was presided by Buddy Perstrop, pastor, and MissionKids director, Pamela Stout. A reception followed. Eight children earned Scripture Memory Award medals. Pictured (front row) are Bekah Stout, bronze, 25 Scriptures; Michaela Hardy, bronze; (middle row) Katie Stout, gold, 75 Scriptures; J. Ben Stout, gold;



MissionKids of New Prospect Church, Olive Branch

Brad Newlin, gold; Lindsay Lee, bronze; (back row) Lydia Hardy, silver, 50 Scriptures; and Carrie Holloway, bronze.

Clarke College Class of 1980 and the freshman of 1979-80 will have its 20-year reunion Saturday, July 29. For more information contact Cindy Cooper Vardaman, 67 Herbert Cooper Rd., Morton, MS 39117 or call (601) 732-6051.



Reeves, Faulkner, and Farmhaven Church, Canton

Mark Reeves (seated left) and Becky Faulkner (seated right) were commissioned by Farmhaven Church, Canton, on May 21 to serve as short-term missionaries in Honduras. Pictured with Reeves and Faulkner is the congregation of Farmhaven Church. Charles Gentry is pastor.

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED. Send resume to: Providence Baptist Church, c/o Dicky Taylor, 301 Fayette Davis Avenue, Cleveland, MS 38732.

PRICE HARRIS - MUSIC EVANGELIST Open dates for 2000: Aug. 13; Sept. 24; Nov. 26; Dec. 17, 24. Call 318-687-0384 or 318-347-4370. Web page: www.dcw.net/phea E-mail: Phea2@aol.com. Call about 2001.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Jefferson City, Missouri, is seeking a full-time minister of students and recreation. Job description heavily emphasizes "purpose driven" youth ministry. Send resume by June 15 to Personnel Chairman, First Baptist Church, 301 E. Capitol Avenue, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

HARRISBURG BAPTIST CHURCH, Tupelo, is now accepting resumes for the minister of music position. Send resumes to 1800 West Main, Tupelo, MS 38801.

WANTED! ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR for the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children (salary, employee and dependent medical and life insurance, paid vacation, sick leave, annuity) Call: Royce Aston at 1-870-367-5358.

HOUSEPARENTS NEEDED! Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries (salary, employee and dependent medical and life insurance, paid vacation, sick leave, annuity). Contact Charles Flynn @ 1-501-376-4791 ext. 5167.

CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 60 cents per word, \$6 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads. **ONLY WRITTEN ADS ACCEPTED.**

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PARADISE LANES: Mississippi's only smoke and alcohol free Bowling Center. Call about Lock-ins, group rates, fund raisers, and leagues. Located at 820 Cooper Road, Jackson, MS, (601) 372-7700.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, Fabrication, Repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call 1-800-368-2705.

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC. Old Bibles rebound. Also church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743. Located at 107 North Stone Avenue, Greenwood, MS 38930.

GROUPS CALL KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT, Eureka Springs, Ark, for excellent seats at The Great Passion Play, plus lodging, recreation, and meals, all for just \$36 each! Details: 1-800-859-8952.

INTERIOR ELEMENTS Stained Glass Studio: Custom church windows. Columbus - toll free 1-877-477-1899.

Jesus Christ

Requests the Honor of Your Presence in Heaven!

YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



Clay Crosse

in concert

Friday July 7, 2000

7:30 p.m.

at

Broadmoor Baptist Church

Madison, MS

with special guest

NICOLE NORDEMAN and introducing ZOE GIRL

Tickets prices:

\$12 - Artist Circle
\$10 - General Admission
For more information call:
(601) 898-4932

Ticket outlets:

- ◆ Broadmoor Baptist Church
- ◆ LifeWay Christian Bookstore
- ◆ Family Christian Bookstore

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Marvin Bibb, minister, dies

Marvin D. Bibb, 77, of Drew, died Friday, April 28, at his residence.

Funeral services were held April 30 at West Drew Church. Burial followed at Drew Cemetery.

Bibb pastored churches in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, and was the director of missions for Calhoun and Yalobusha associations. He retired from the pulpit while pastoring at West Drew Church.

Bibb is survived by his wife Pauline Chambers Bibb of Drew; daughter, Cathy Dickerson of Cleveland; son, Ronnie Bibb of Indianola; brothers, Earl Bibb of Cabot, Ark.; sisters, Frances Raley of Clinton, Margaret Knight of Clarksdale, Ga., Nell West of Drew, and Kathryn Kraft of Liberty; grandson, Brad Dickerson of Oxford; granddaughters, Olivia Bibb Thomas of Tallulah, La., Meredith Dickerson of Cleveland, and Jenny Bibb of Indianola; and one great-granddaughter, Savannah Thomas of Tallulah, La.

The family requests memorials be made to the West Drew Church, c/o Bettye Stevens, 263 Nancy Street, Drew, MS 38737 or The Baptist Children's Village.

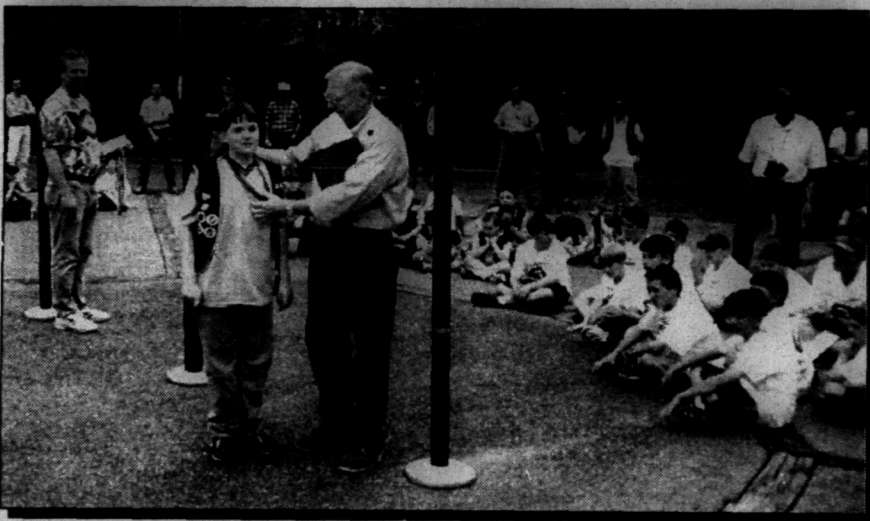


Summerlin, Peoples, Beeson, and Kirk

Joey Beeson was ordained to the gospel ministry at Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven, on May 7. Beeson is youth minister of Friendship Church, McComb. Pictured (from left) are LaVerne Summerlin, pastor, Friendship Church; Amanda Peoples, McComb, fiancée of Beeson; Beeson; and Ken Kirk, pastor, Heucks Retreat.

Michael Pickens recently attended RA camp at Central Hills Baptist Retreat. He placed first in his age group and then placed overall state winner in the speaker's tournament. Pickens is pictured receiving an award from Tom Prather, consultant, Men's Ministry

Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



Pickens and Prather

Blake White was licensed to the ministry by Sallis Church, Attala Association, on March 28 after preaching the morning message. He is available for supply or pastorate and can be contacted at Rt. 1, Box 85, Sallis, MS 39160 or phone (662) 289-4235. Pictured with White (center) is his wife Barbara holding Katlin, and Thomas Wicker, pastor.



The Whites and Wicker

Bill Cockerham will preach at Liberty Church, Liberty, on June 11 in commemoration of his 50th anniversary of his ordination. He was ordained to the ministry on June 4, 1950 at Liberty Church. Cockerham is a graduate of Clarke College, Louisiana College, and New Orleans Seminary. He has pastored churches in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, and Georgia. He has retired and is living in Oakwood, Ga.

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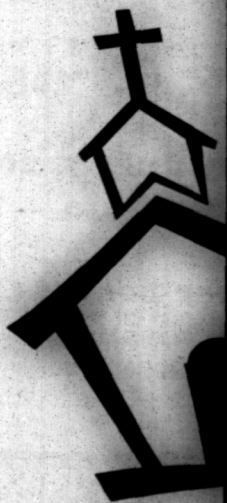
Harmony, Brookhaven: June 11, service, 11 a.m.; noon; covered-dish lunch in fellowship hall; James Watts, Morton, former pastor, guest speaker; Clarence Young, interim pastor.

Phildelphia, Caseyville: June 18; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; covered dish lunch at noon in fellowship hall at

noon; Tommy Marlowe, former pastor (1969-1973), guest speaker.

Rehobeth, Pelahatchie: June 11; worship service at 10:30 a.m.; Bobby Tagert, guest speaker; Dennis Ellingburg, music; covered dish lunch in fellowship hall; activities in the afternoon will start around 4 p.m.; Jim Ray, pastor.

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ADDRESS SEXISM

Editor:

I have rarely, if ever, felt compelled to make my personal opinions public, but I feel the most recent actions by the Southern Baptist Convention to revise the Baptist Faith and Message warrant a response.

I have always been led to believe that one of the basic premises of Baptist belief is the priesthood of the believer, the ability for Christians (under the leadership of the Holy Spirit) to read and interpret the Scriptures for themselves. Therefore, it is with great dismay that I learn that our convention is not only interpreting Scripture for us (i.e., "the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture"), but is actually making their interpretations a part of our Baptist Faith and Message.

What's next for these overseers of my faith? Will they propose that I not wear my wedding rings or put a spending cap on what I wear to worship? (Lest you think I'm being facetious, refer to the same Scriptures refer-

enced to support their proposed change — 1 Tim. 2:9-14 NIV. It's all in the interpretation, right?)

I sincerely hope that I am not the only Southern Baptist deeply concerned about these issues. I strongly urge others who have similar concerns to express them to their messengers who will be attending the convention. I would also suggest that in addition to our committees to address the issues of racism and the pronouncement that "Christians should oppose racism" that we begin to address the issue of sexism within our churches.

Sharon Harden
Vicksburg

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Editor:

My roots as a Southern Baptist are very deep. On August 5, 1923, at the very tender age of one-week-old, I was enrolled in a Southern Baptist Cradle Roll. On April 21, 1940 I was licensed and later ordained by a Southern Baptist church. For 60 years I have committed myself to be a

faithful preacher of the Word of God and a loyal Southern Baptist.

Sadly, however, I find that relationship on the brink of being destroyed by Baptist Faith & Message revisionists led by Adrian Rogers and Al Mohler in their move to extract the very, very biblical teachings of E.Y. Mullins and Herschel Hobbs from Southern Baptist doctrine.

Are we now going to follow the teachings of the Johnny-come-lately hyper-Calvinists who presently occupy powerful places of influence among us, or are we going to exercise the biblical and Baptist principle of soul competency which is inherent in the very, very biblical doctrine of the priesthood of the believer and reject these doctrinal intrusions?

For years now the divisive, fundamentalist zealots among us, who have shown little respect for the autonomy of the local church, have trampled on the vital doctrine of the priesthood of the believer. Enough is enough and too much is too much.

I am likely to sever myself from the Southern Baptist Convention but I will never sever

myself from the doctrines of soul competency and the priesthood of the believer.

Donald A. Bennett Sr.
Lawrenceville, Ga.

Editor note: Bennett is a native Mississippian who served as pastor of a number of state churches and also as a director of missions.

REMOVE INEQUITIES

Editor:

Perhaps it is inevitable that there will be inequities in the appointee/nominee/election process of selecting persons to serve as trustees of the boards and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), but we should work to remove these inequities.

This year's published listing of nominees and appointees to be presented at the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando has one church having five members who are on the list of nominees and appointments. Surely five representatives out of one

(continued on page ten)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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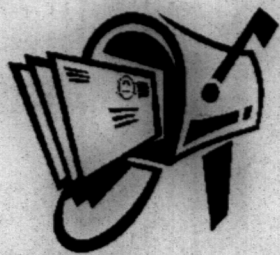
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SBHS to study name change

SAVANNAH, Ga. (ABP) — The Southern Baptist Historical Society (SBHS), independent of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) since 1995, authorized a committee May 26 to study whether the 62-year-old organization should remove "Southern Baptist" from its name.

The society for church historians formerly was an auxiliary to the SBC Historical Commission, dissolved in a major denominational restructuring. Formed in 1938, the society predates the now-defunct commission by 13 years. It was the SBC's official history agency until the Historical Commission was chartered in 1951. After the commission folded, responsibility for recording denominational history transferred to a council of seminary presidents.

The Historical Society, however, opted to continue as an organization independent of the SBC. It has since hired a staff and sought to broaden support in local churches, associations, and state conventions, as well as other Baptist organizations and institutions, like seminaries and divinity schools.

Charles Deweese, a former Historical Commission associate director hired as the Historical Society's first full-time executive director last fall, called the last 12 months "a major year of transition for this organization."

The group ended 1999 in the black, he said, noting increases in state conventions and colleges donating to the society, and moved past \$250,000 in endowment, toward a goal of \$1 million.

(continued from page nine)
church is excessive and inequitable, especially in view of the limited number of positions to be filled from a pool of more than fifteen million Southern Baptists.

It is not unusual to have churches with several members serving on various boards and agencies. Nor, is it unusual to have persons who have finished serving the constitutional limit of two terms on one board to be immediately nominated to serve on another board. Our convention would be better served if those responsible for selecting nominees and appointees would give consideration to involving more of our churches in the process.

Perhaps limiting nominees or appointees to one per church would be a good guideline to enhance greater representation of local churches in SBC life.

Ernie Perkins, exec. director
Capital Association
Oklahoma City, Okla.

ONE WITH EACH OTHER

Editor:

I shared most of my seminary years with Adrian Rogers and some of the first faculty of Mid-America Baptist Seminary, which initially met in Roger's church. My seminary days were filled with many unanticipated moments, not the least of which was one chapel experience. On this occasion a most respected professor of New Testament studies, Frank Stagg, stood before the student body and reaffirmed his basic beliefs in the Bible and Baptist principles. The spirit by which he shared his faith overshadowed the witch hunt of his accusers. His spirit of love transcended their spirit of judgment.

Little did I realize that what I was experiencing that day in chapel — the discrediting of people and their God-given gifts to serve — would someday be played out across the Southern Baptist Convention.

It is sad to see men who bear the name of Christ find satisfaction in actions which serve only to further divide the body of Christ, like the revised Baptist Faith and Message statement.

I have hope because God takes the long look. Those who seem like giants in the land today will one day be no more. God is redemptive and works toward reconciliation, not division. The prayer of Christ for us has always been that we might be one with each other, even as he is one with God.

Caby Byrne
Memphis

PICK YOUR FAITH

Editor:

There seems to be a never-ending attempt to reconcile Christianity with the pseudo-science of evolution. One could debate the finer points of this theory *ad nauseam* (an example, the bird/reptile relationship can easily be compared to the relationship between, for instance, paintings. Did the "Mona Lisa" share a common ancestor with "The Last Supper," or a common creator?) but that does not address the central fact of the fundamental incompatibility between Darwin and Christ.

It requires neither a masters in science, nor a doctorate in theology, to see a conflict between Darwin and Scripture. Our Lord referred to a literal Adam and Eve in Matt. 19:3-6; a literal Cain and Abel in Matt. 23:34-35; and a literal Noah with a literal Ark in

Matt. 24:37-39. His apostles also referred directly to these events and none spoke of the "legend" of Adam and Eve, or the "fable" of Cain and Abel, or the "fairy tale" of Noah's Ark.

Furthermore, the bedrock foundation of Christianity is that Christ died for the sins of mankind, which originated with Adam and Eve. Paul accepted this as literal as evidenced by Rom. 5. Go read it. To say that Paul was speaking of a literal Moses and a metaphorical Adam in the same sentence would be nonsense.

So the choice is clear: Was Jesus wrong, or was Darwin? Pick your faith, because both cannot be true — but pick carefully, there is much riding on your choice.

Gerry Rainey, pastpr
Mt. Moriah Church
Ripley

THANKS, MISS. BAPTISTS

Editor:

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I express my appreciation to

Mississippi Baptists. Since the mid 60's I have been actively participating in Mississippi Baptist life, with the exception of a few years. I would like to express my appreciation to all the churches and the people in this great state, who has made such a valid contribution to my life.

While every church, from Lawrence to Lincoln, to Jackson, to Jones, and Coahoma counties, has made a valid contribution to our lives, it seems as though the past eight years have been the greatest eight years of our lives. We have had the privilege of pastoring the Riverside Church, Clarksdale.

So now as we take our leave and move back to South Carolina to begin another ministry, my heart just wanted to publicly thank God and Mississippi Baptists and those special people I pastored in my tenure in Mississippi. My prayer is that God might richly enlighten the mind, increase the understanding, and that Christ be formed more perfectly in everyone.

Luther M. Price
Clarksdale

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In His love,

Jimmy Draper

James T. Draper, Jr.
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EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Christ speaks to his churches

Revelation 2:1-7; 3:15-20

By Tommy Bufkin

Worship is an important motivation for service. True worship comes out of sincere love and respect for God. When you love someone you want to do things for them; you want to please them.

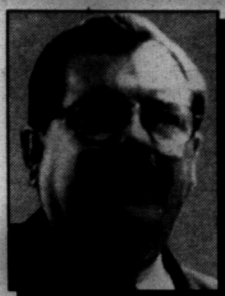
Return to your first love (2:1-7). All of the letters to the seven churches follow a similar pattern. With some exceptions each church receives: (1) address; (2) identification of Christ; (3) commendation; (4) reprimand; (5) exhortation; and (6) promise.

Ephesus was an important, rich and worldly city. Paul had founded the church there and had spent three years of his ministry there, which was the longest time he spent in any

city. Tradition associates John (the author of Revelation) and Timothy with the church there. Some believe Timothy was the pastor there when John wrote Revelation.

The believers there were doing good things. They worked hard; they refused to be led astray by false doctrine; and they endured patiently. Despite the good they accomplished, it was ruined because of wrong motivation. They had left their first love.

What is this love? It is that self-sacrificing love for Christ that is seen in love for fellow believers and for the lost. Perhaps they were working hard but for praise or personal honor; perhaps in opposing



Bufkin

false doctrine, they had become strident and harsh; or perhaps in patient endurance they had become bitter and resentful. The lack of love made their accomplishments empty. Our Lord looks at the heart. He looks for pure motives of love.

The Lord exhorts the church with three commands: remember, repent, and do. They were to continue remembering their love for Christ and excitement for his work. Then they were to change, turning from wrong actions toward Christ. Finally, they were to do what they did when the love was fresh.

The "works of the Nicolaitans" apparently included sexual immorality and idolatry. It appeared to be an attempt to combine Christianity and paganism. Christ wants our faith to be pure and focused on him.

Laodicea was the only one of the seven churches that received no commendation. It was a wealthy city that manufactured wool cloth. It had a medical school which produced an eye salve and also warm springs which provided water for bathing but was unfit to drink.

The church was like the local springs, lukewarm. In saying he wished they were hot or cold, Christ is not desiring cold believers. He would wish all were zealous for his work. Lukewarm faith is dangerous because it gives the appearance of the real thing but leads people astray. The Lord knew their hearts and their half-hearted devotion was sickening.

The church thought it was rich but it is Christ's opinion of his church that counts. He found them lacking. The church has to understand that its riches come from a dependence on Christ.

Many are surprised that the love of Christ includes rebuke

and chastening. However, love that does not warn of danger and does nothing to try to change dangerous behavior is not real love. The chastening of the Lord is redemptive. He seeks to keep us from sin and its consequences.

The church is to continue being zealous. This is the remedy to lukewarmness: the overwhelming desire to please the Lord. With this remedy, they were to turn from sin and move toward him.

The invitation given is to the church rather than to lost people. It is a sad picture of the Lord wanting in to the church but the door is closed to him by the lack of faith and half-hearted devotion of those inside. He wants to have fellowship with his own.

Be careful. Material prosperity can sap spiritual strength. It is only when the Lord takes his rightful place in our lives that the heat returns.

Bufkin is pastor of Mt. Zion Church, Rankin Association.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Characteristics of believers: Humility

Philippians 2:1-18

By Juanita West

Within the single, most important aspect of the Christian's life — Jesus' gift of eternal life — lies a lesson in meekness. Paul understood that unity in the Christian life depended upon the church's understanding and practice of true humility. In this lesson Paul exhorts the Philippian Christians to serve humbly.

Applicable exhortation (vv. 1-4). Paul has refused to let his circumstances determine his attitude and now he encourages the Philippian Christians to do the same. His use of the conditional "if" in verse one helps to

remind them of four truths: "consolation in Christ, comfort of love, fellowship of the spirit, affection and mercy." (NKJ) He uses these concepts to advise them that attitude can destroy the unity among the believers, but adherence to these truths will strengthen their unity. In verse 2, Paul tells them that he will be filled with joy if they will be "like-minded, have the same love, be of one accord, and be of one mind." (NKJ) In their endeavors to share the gospel, Paul exhorts them not to place themselves above any other and not to work out of ambition but out of humility. No Christian



West

should be concerned only with his own interests but should also be concerned with the interests of others (vv. 3-4).

Paul's exhortation leads us to assess our own attitudes. Can we place others above ourselves and can we value people more than possessions? According to William Barclay, "No man can walk in disunity with his fellow-man and in unity with Christ" (The Daily Study Bible Series: the Letters to the Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians, p.33).

Appealing example (vv. 5-11). Jesus Christ is the perfect example of all humility. Paul reminds the Philippians that they, individually and as a church body, need to have the same mind as Christ. "The inner work God does in your mind will find expression outwardly in the way you live your life" (T.W. Hunt & Claude V. King,

The Mind of Christ, p.18). Jesus embodied the characteristics of man except for Jesus' sinless nature. "He emptied himself of his deity to take upon himself his humanity." (Barclay, DSB, P. 36) But Jesus did not just "come in the likeness of men," (NKJ) he came as a "bondservant," ready to serve others. In his obedience to God, Christ manifests the greatest example of humility.

Are we today obedient to our heavenly Father's will or do we work to control our own lives and destiny? Do we bow before Jesus and "confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father?" (NKJ, v. 11). The Philippian church had men who "preach Christ from selfish ambition" (NKJ, 1:16). Jesus "humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death." (NKJ, 2:8) As Barclay wrote, "So the follower of Christ must think always, not of himself but of others, not of his own glory but

of the glory of God" (Barclay, DSB, p.40).

Appropriate response (vv. 12-13). If someone has a gift for you, the gift is not yours until you receive it or take it. God extends each of us a gift, but it does not belong to us until we receive it. Paul reminds the Philippians that it is "God who works in you both to will and to do for his good pleasure" (NKJ, v. 13). They [the Philippian church] must live every day continually seeking to know and to do God's will, to seek where he [God] is at work in their lives and to join him in that work (Blackaby, Experiencing God). Sadly, we are often content just to sit and wait. We have no urgency to be involved in God's work. Therefore, we experience no Christian growth. "But the truly Christian life must be a continual progress, for it is a journey towards God" (Barclay, DSB, p.42).

West is a member of Calvary Church, Newton.

LIFE AND WORK

How we know what we know

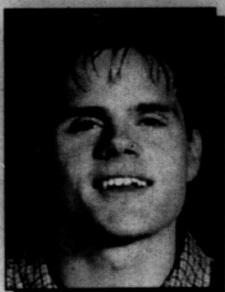
Eccl. 8:16-17; Rom. 8:5-8; Eph. 4:17-18, 22-24; Heb. 11:1-2

By Matt Loving

What is the relationship between knowing and believing? The old hymn He Lives by Alfred H. Ackley really seems to clinch the matter within the chorus. "You ask me how I know He lives: He lives within my heart." Reason and faith are both means of knowing God, each having a proper sphere and place in a person's life. Christians are to learn to exercise both aspects constantly and simultaneously to the glory of God. This question at hand can begin to be answered by understanding the roles, spheres, and limitations of rea-

son with faith as a biblical means of knowing truth. The Old and New Testaments both provide insight into knowing what we know.

Human reason: adequate, but limited (Eccl. 8:16-17). The teacher in this passage describes the importance of applying his mind to know wisdom, and yet at the same time learned that man cannot discover the meaning of all that God does under the sun. I have heard it said many times that the more you learn about the Lord the less you realize you know. In this truth we find the



Loving

precedence for Christians to apply themselves to wisdom. The more we seek God with all our being allowing him to have his way with us, the more awe struck we will become that he has condescended himself to us through Jesus. Being obsessed with the things of God is not enough. We desperately need to be

obsessed by God. **Human reason: affected by sin (Rom. 8:5-8).** Paul explains in these verses that sin affects the human mind. People without Christ possess depraved minds (Rom. 1:28) which leads into a depraved lifestyle and world view. Sin-stained reason is the major hindrance to righteous living, true spiritual understanding, and a God-given world view. Believers find that they must consistently seek God for cleansing of the stain of sin by crying out to him

in desperate dependence, just as King David did in Psalm 51.

Christians are to be renewed in their minds (Eph. 4:17-18, 22-24). Another aspect of understanding how reason and faith work hand-in-hand is presented in this passage. Paul encourages the readers to be made new in the attitudes of their minds. This is presented as the key to spiritual renewal and a restoring of a God-given world view. We are to do this by purposefully and actively denying sinful selfish ways (the old self), as well as embracing ways that reflect God and his world view (the new self).

Faith is the ultimate means to knowing spiritual realities (Heb. 11:1-2). When it comes to aspects of our relationship with God in which rational demonstration and empirical verification is unattainable, faith in God in keeping with biblical claims and statements provides the understanding of

such realities. Faith does not rest on the conclusions of the intellect but rather in knowledge in matters of biblical truths, teachings, and concepts making believers certain of what they cannot see. Hannah Whitall Smith explained this aspect of believing God when she wrote the following words: "Suppose you had doubted the strength or the stability of your bed, and had dreaded every moment to find it giving way beneath you and landing you on the floor; could you have rested then? Let this analogy teach you what it means to rest in the Lord. Let your souls lie down upon the couch of His sweet will, as your bodies lie down in their beds at night...Your part is simply to rest. His part is to sustain you; and He cannot fail" (The Christian's Secret To A Happy Life, pg. 42-43).

Loving is minister of youth at Oak Hill Church, Poplarville.

NAMB's POW documentary to air on NBC

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — After surviving ejection from a fighter jet at 550 mph, Roger Invalson prayed in a dried-out rice paddy more than 30 years ago for Christ to "take over" his life. Today he

monies of respected individuals.

Hargis found 10 prisoners of war — including several high-ranking officers who have since become widely known political figures — who welcomed the opportunity to openly share Christ's role in their ordeal.

"One of the things they told me is, 'We've told this story thousands of times, and yet every time it's on television they cut out the part where we tell about God's role in it,'" Hargis said. "[The former POWs] were interested in doing the interviews because that's the direction our show was taking."

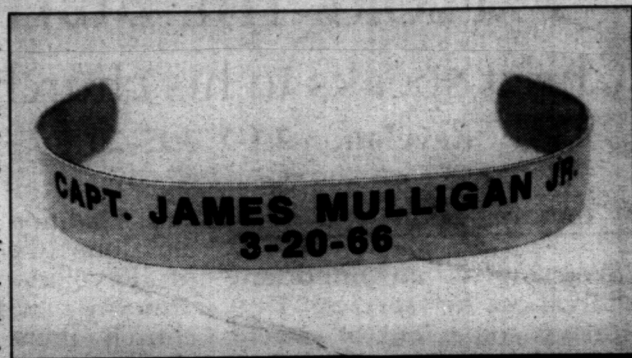
The former prisoners profiled include Invalson, of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Thorsness, of Alexandria, Va.; Norm McDaniel of Fort Washington, Md.; Jeremiah Denton of Mobile, Ala.; Robinson Risner of Austin, Texas; Red McDaniel of Mt. Vernon, Va.; James Mulligan of Virginia Beach, Va.; Porter Halyburton of Newport, R.I.; Fred Cherry of Washington, D.C.; and Sam Johnson of Plano, Texas.

Hargis said the documentary is something of a departure from previous specials in that it consists of simply the men telling their stories — from an opening montage of the accounts of their captures to the details of their releases years later.

"It's a little graphic," Hargis admitted. "They talk about the gruesome and unpleasant things that they went through. But over and over they bring it back to the way the Lord sustained them and brought them through it. And every man told how they are a better man, a better Christian, or a better husband and father because of what they went through."

Often, even small symbols of faith were enough to sustain the men. Halyburton told how one small ray of sunshine made its way through a crack in the wall of his cell, shining on the opposite wall for about 10 minutes each day. He fashioned a small cross out of toilet paper, and glued it to the wall with glue made from rice.

"Every day I would wait in great anticipation for this event where the sun would



REMEMBERED — Many Americans during the Vietnam War wore bracelets with the names of prisoners of war and the dates of their capture as a way of remembering their plight. James Mulligan is among 10 prisoners of war featured in a new television documentary for the North American Mission Board titled, "Prisoners of Hope."

come through and shine on that cross," he said. "That's when I had ... my major devotional period of the day."

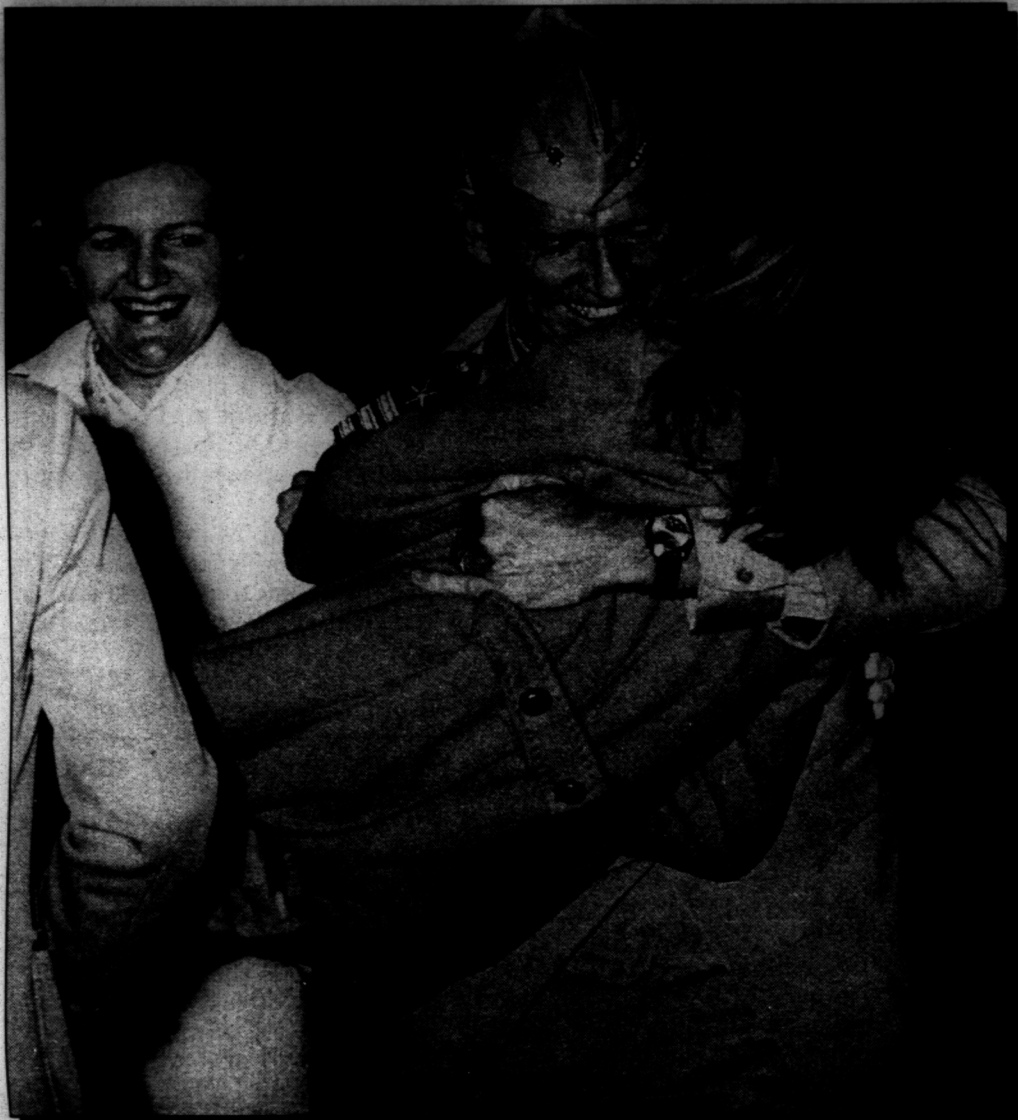
Although they were often not allowed to talk, communication in the prison also became a detailed system of codes, whether by tapping on the walls or by various coughs and cleared throats, according to the documentary.

Worship and prayer were also conducted covertly. Johnson told how prisoners signaled to each other the start of Sunday morning worship by someone stomping on the floor.

"We'd all kneel down together — even though we were by ourselves — and pray," he said. "And the strength of prayer with a group, as you know, is much stronger than just by yourselves."

Risner, who retired as a brigadier general, echoed the statements of many of the men in describing how the experience had affected him.

"For seven and a half years I never wondered one moment what I was doing there," he said. "The Lord was getting my attention. ... Changed my life completely, and I won't ever, ever disappoint him again — not within the realms of my ability. I belong to him."



REUNITED — Eugene "Red" McDaniel greets his wife and daughter upon his arrival at Clark Air Force base in the Philippines on Feb. 12, 1973. McDaniel is among 10 prisoners of war featured in a new television documentary for the North American Mission Board titled, "Prisoners of Hope."

Bibliocipher

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CMB, UGKD, OKPB, SM
UGY WYHSMMSMH GCJU
OCSB UGY LKDMBCUSKM
KL UGY YCPUG; CMB
UGY GYCYMJ CPY UGY
AKPEJ KL UGSMY GCMBJ.
GYWPYAJ KMY: UYM

Clue: B = D

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Ephesians Five: Two.

credits that relationship with carrying him and many of his fellow prisoners of war in North Vietnam through the torture and isolation that was to follow.

"I had the wonderful psychological feeling that I was really pulling one over on the Vietnamese," Invalson said, describing one extended period of solitary confinement. "They thought I was in there and really suffering by being alone. [But] I had a cellmate ... the entire time I was there, and that was the Lord Jesus Christ."

Invalson's story is one of 10 portrayed in "Prisoners of Hope," a new television documentary produced by the North American Mission Board's (NAMB) broadcast communications group that will air on NBC stations beginning June 21. Each man shares a similar tale, from the graphic horrors of torture and mistreatment to the strength that each found through faith in Christ.

Bernie Hargis, producer of the documentary, said the concept grew out of another military-themed television special on Medal of Honor recipients last year titled "Valor." One of the recipients, Col. Leo Thorsness, had also been a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

"When I did his interview and started to tell about that, I saw right away we needed to do an hour on prisoners of war," Hargis said.

The special is one of two produced each year by NAMB for broadcast by network affiliates of ABC and NBC, which determine when to air them. Each special has sought to reach people with the gospel through personal testi-



WAR HEROES — Returning prisoners of war were greeted by family and media when they arrived at Clark Air Force based in the Philippines on Feb. 12, 1973. Among them were many of the pilots featured in a new television documentary for the North American Mission Board titled "Prisoners of Hope," which allows the men to share how God sustained them during years of torture and isolation.